

Washington, D.C. – As taxpayers in Ohio completed their tax returns today, Rep. Charlie Wilson vowed to fight to ensure American tax dollars are used to rebuild America, not Iraq.

Americans have already spent \$45 billion rebuilding Iraq and the war costs our nation \$10.3 billion a month, or about \$4,000 a second. The typical American taxpayer's entire federal tax bill pays for less than one half of one second of the cost of the war in Iraq. Additionally, the Defense Contract Audit Agency believes there have been more than \$10 billion in questionable or unsupported costs in Iraq contracts.

"Bear in mind, Iraq is running a budget surplus and is supplying oil to the world at record high prices. Iraq is diverting resources from our own struggling economy. What about our bridges and our roads?" Wilson asked.

The U.S. spends \$339 million per day in Iraq. For the cost of one day in Iraq Congress could have placed 2,060 agents on our borders for a year. Congress could have housed 48,000 homeless veterans for a year. Congress could have vaccinated 317,000 children. Congress could have provided 2.6 million Americans access to medical and dental care at community health centers.

"It's time to invest in America again," Wilson said.